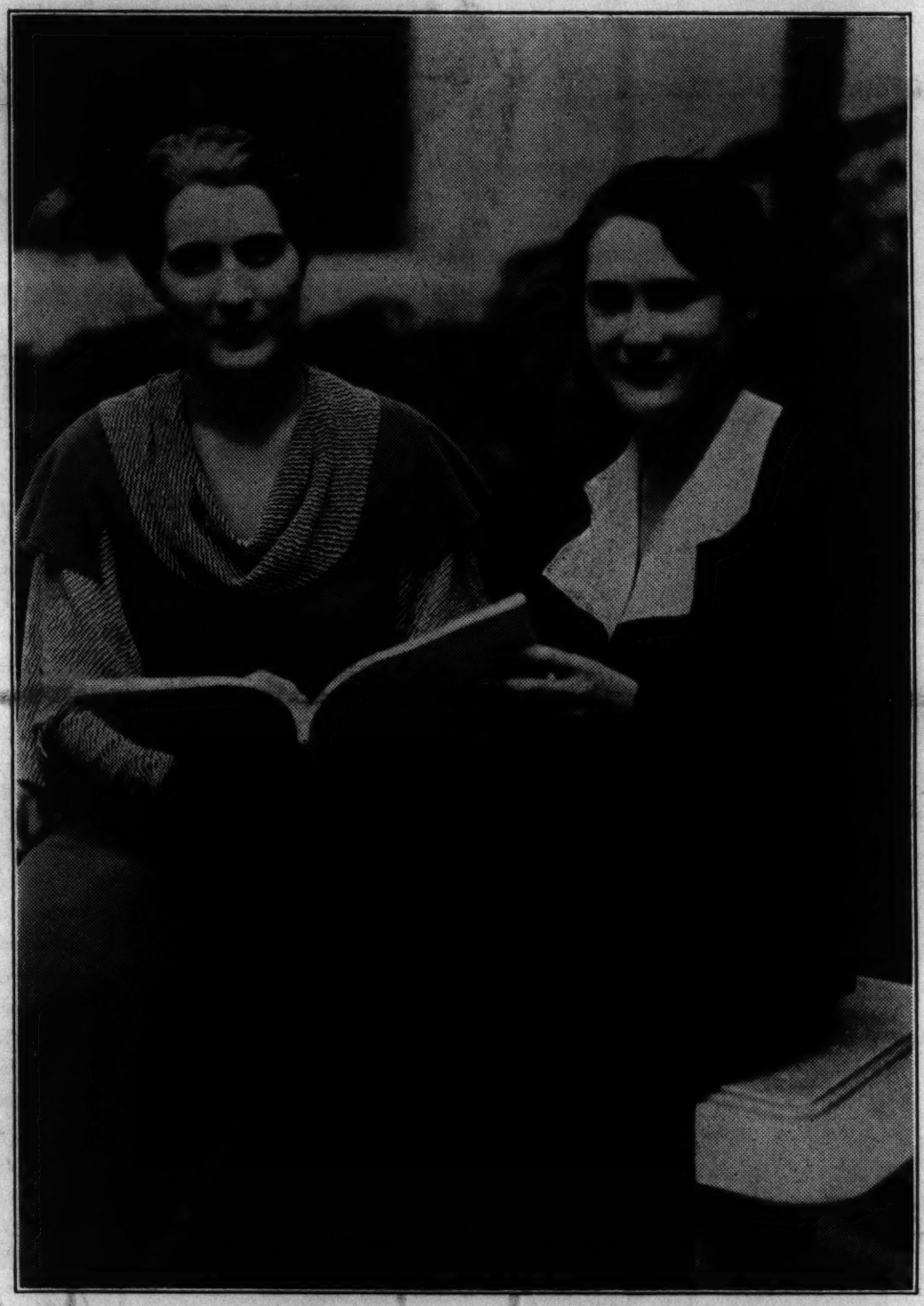
APR 27 1934 · LIBRARY OF CONGRESS · PERIODICAL

Equal Rights

VOL. XX, No. 13
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
APRIL 28, 1934



Collaborate on Treaty

Carmita Landestoy from Santo Domingo (right) is now in Washington helping the Inter American Commission of Women at its central headquarters in the Pan American Union, where plans are being made for ratification of the Equal Nationality Treaty adopted by the Seventh International Conference of American States held in Montevideo.

Fanny Bunand-Sevastos (left), Executive Secretary of the Commission, is conferring with Miss Landestoy in the patio of the Pan American Union. Miss Landestoy was a guest of honor Thursday evening, April 12, at a dinner held at the Alva Belmont House, National Headquarters of the Woman's Party. This charming and gifted young person is the first Dominican woman to come to Washington to help further continental Feminism. Later, she expects to use the experience gained here in Feminist work in the Dominican Republic.

Equal Rights

OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
National Woman's Party
Capitol Hill,
Washington, D. C.
Phone, Atlantic 1210
Published Weekly
at 19 West Chase Street,
Baltimore, Md.
Phone, Vernon 3279

Edith Houghton Hooker . . . . Editor
Emilie A. Doetsch . . . Managing Editor
Dora G. Ogle . . . Business Manager

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

Nina E. Allender
Zoe Beckley
Ruby A. Black
Lucia Chamberlain
Phyllis Duganne
Ernestine Evans
Rose Feld
Zona Gale
Helen Davenport Gibbons
Rebecca Hourwich
Ruth Hale
Inez Haynes Irwin
Ada Davenport Kendall
Muna Lee
Alma Lutz
Hazel MacKaye
Edna St. Vincent Millay
Ruth Pickering
Alice Rohe
Maryse Rutledge
Miriam Finn Scott
Doris Stevens
Sophie Treadwell
Brenda Ueland
Mary Winsor

Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

OFFICERS OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

Chairman National Council, Sarah T. Colvin, 1175 Davern Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.
Vice-Chairmen,
Florence Bayard Hilles, Del.
Gail Laughlin, Me.
Anita Pollitzer, S. C.
Secretary, Rebekah Greathouse, D. C.
Treasurer, Laura Berrien, D. C.
Congressional Chairman, Maud Younger, Cal.
Parliamentarian, Emma A. Fox, Mich.

Edwina Austin Avery, D. C.
Nina E. Allender, D. C.
Mrs. Dwight Clark. D. C.
Mrs. Merritt O. Chance, D. C.
Bertha W. Fowler, Colo.
Elsie Hill, Conn.
Inez Haynes Irwin, N. Y.
Edith Houghton Hooker, Md.
Elizabeth T. Kent, Calif.
Alma Lutz, N. Dak.
Burnita S. Matthews, Miss.
Lola Maverick Lloyd, Ill.
Mary A. Murray, N. Y.
Dora G. Ogle, Md.
Alice Paul, N. J.
Elizabeth Selden Rogers, N.Y.
Jane Norman Smith, N. Y.
A. Marguerite Smith, Mass.
Doris Stevens, N. Y.
Mrs. John Jay White, N. Y.
Margaret Whittemore, Calif.
Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, D. C.
Mrs. Valentine Winters, Ohio
Maud Younger, Calif.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

Annual Dues	$10.00
Associate Members	$1.00
Subscribing Members	$3.00
Founders	$100.00
Life Members	$1,000.00
Endowers	$5,000.00
Sustainers	$5,000.00

OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 1]
[House Joint Resolution Number 1]

Introduced in the Senate March 10, 1933, by SENATOR JOHN G. TOWNSEND, Delaware.

Introduced in the House March 9, 1933, by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW, Indiana.

On Taking In Each Other's Washing

IN THE excellent exposition of the minimum wage situation in New York by Jane Norman Smith, appearing on the opposite page, reference is made to the strike of the women laundry workers in Brooklyn because of the pitiful wages they receive for what is anything but easy work.

According to an order of the Wage Board of New York, governing women and minors in laundry occupations, a wage of 31 cents per hour or $12.40 a week should be paid women and minors in laundry occupations in the New York city area. It seems that employers were paying these Brooklyn workers 15, and in some cases as little as 13 cents an hour, many of them receiving "from $6 to $9 for a week of from 45 to 52 working hours." As Mrs. Smith points out, these laundries are plainly violating the law.

In other words, minimum wage laws for *women and minors only* are not only grossly unfair and unjust, enabling men and boys to undercut women and rob them of their jobs and in that way keeping wage scales down for all workers, the minimum becoming the maximum, but it appears that in New York at least the very immensity of the problem makes impossible its enforcement. Laundrymen are openly flaunting the law. The Mayor's effort to compel obedience by cutting off the water supply of two laundries, although it ended the laundry workers' strike, left the real issue still untouched, as is shown by the statement of the secretary of one of the two laundries affected by the strike that only eight of the 200 laundries in Brooklyn are paying the minimum rate, and by the further fact that the State Labor Department has only four investigators.

As members of the National Woman's Party and believers in Equal Rights, we hotly resent the whole situation, but even more that such unfair practices should be allowed in a field of work which men have taken away from women. Had the matter been one involving boiler factories or shipbuilding, we should not feel the affront quite so deeply since these are industries in which women, by and large, have had very little to do. But washing clothes, until comparatively recently when steam laundries came into effect, was woman's work all over the world, and in many parts of the world still is. The large steam laundry operators are among the ever-widening class of employers who have been taking women's work out of the home. And now, having robbed woman of work in that home to which the Hitler-minded even of our own nation wish to relegate her, they are trying to despoil her again of her just earnings when she follows her work to the factory.

There is an old legend of a remote little village or island in which the inhabitants earned their living by taking in each other's washing. The idea is a whimsical one, but in it may lie our salvation. In the last two numbers of EQUAL RIGHTS contributors have forcefully pointed out that women can attain their rights by patronizing other women—doctors, lawyers, dentists, milliners, florists, architects, and by singling out women salespeople in the large shops. The laundry situation in New York suggests another thought—that of taking in each other's washing, or rather of having it done again in the home.

Apparently one of the most effective weapons used by Gandhi is that of self-sufficiency. He and his followers spin their own yarn, weave their own cloth, grind their own meal and bake their own bread. All of these things, in Colonial times, used to be done by American women in their own homes. It can be done again and, thanks to labor-saving machinery, with infinitely less back-breaking toil than formerly. Washing machines, electric irons, installed laundry tubs, gas and electric stoves with heat-regulating devices, electric sewing machines, make it possible for every individual home to be a small individual power-operated unit.

With the aid of a woman servant, or servants, the housewife could make her own clothes, bake her own bread, wash and iron her own clothes, dye the draperies, in fact, do a great deal of decorating and painting, not to forget the care of floors, for which she now depends on factory and masculine help. Besides, the return of these various kinds of really interesting activities to the home will not only, if intelligently pursued, result in better work and products than are now attained from mass production, but it will give women who are fortunate enough to have a home, and means, and perhaps a good-paying job of their own, a chance to absorb some of the women who have been thrown out of work by the greed and ruthlessness of men.

Let us remember again that 85 per cent. of the buying power of the nation rests in the hands of its women. If, in addition to patronizing other women in business and professionally, women would recall some of the activities to the home which they have allowed to migrate into factories, the Equal Rights Amendment would follow as inevitably as day follows the darkness of night.

"The Minimum Has Virtually Become the Maximum"

By Jane Norman Smith
Chairman of Committee on Equality of Economic Opportunity, National Woman's Party

A LITTLE over a year ago welfare and labor groups met in New York to plan an aggressive campaign to put through the Legislature a minimum wage law for women.

During the legislative session that followed, heartrending stories of sweat-shops and starvation wages were broadcast throughout the State. The chiseling of unscrupulous manufacturers enlisted for the first time the support of some employers who were suffering from unfair competition. In debate, the proponents of the law admitted that men, too, were receiving shockingly low wages, "but," they said, "men can look after themselves . . . they can organize and strike for better wages . . . it is difficult to organize women, and, anyway, women would rather be protected by legislation than resort to strikes . . . moreover, the American Federation of Labor objects to minimum wage legislation for men . . . its leaders say the minimum would become the maximum and, while they do not object to such a law for women, they oppose it for men."

APPEARING before a meeting on Fair Labor Standards held at the American Women's Association in New York City during the campaign, a Woman's Party speaker recognized the fact that many workers were not receiving a living wage, but insisted that if legislation was considered to be the most desirable way to remedy the situation, it should apply to all workers and not to women alone. It was after she had pointed out the tendency of a minimum wage to become a maximum that the executive secretary of the Consumers' League—now head of the Regional Labor Board of New York—replied that this contention was fanatical theory. Less than a year later, in the New York *Times Magazine* of March 25, 1934, she is quoted as saying with regard to NRA minimum wage schedules: "To insure a living wage to the humblest worker and the least skilled worker in industry, a minimum wage was incorporated in the codes with the understanding that, in a manner of speaking, this would be a springboard for the higher marks to be reached by older and more highly skilled labor. The interpretation of the minimum wage clause by a large group of employers is the tinder that is lighting the dynamite in current industrial disputes. *The minimum has virtually become the maximum.*" (Italics mine.)

At the time of the New York campaign the only available data on minimum wage laws for women in other States had been put out by those in favor of the laws. Our Committee on Equality of Economic Opportunity made a research of the effect of this legislation and in addition secured reliable information from business and industrial women in several States having minimum wage laws for women, all of which proved that a minimum wage fixed by law in these States tended to become the maximum, and that wherever the laws were enforced, women were thrown out of work and replaced by men and boys.

READERS, PLEASE NOTE!

Readers of Equal Rights are asked to note on their calendars that the Fourth Annual Herald-Tribune Conference on Current Problems will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, September 26 and 27.

Mrs. William Brown Meloney, Editor of the Sunday Magazine of the Herald-Tribune, is announcing the dates thus early in order that the various Party branches and councils can arrange their own meetings and personal plans so as not to conflict with this important conclave of women.

"It seems necessary," Mrs. Meloney writes, "for us to defer, until late in August, the complete announcement of the final subjects for the fall Conference, but the important speakers who are coming from various parts of the United States and abroad will key their messages and their discussions to the most vital problems with which we shall be faced next year. A tentative program will be sent with the invitations which will go out about September first."

These findings were placed before the Governor and legislators of New York and appeared in EQUAL RIGHTS of March 18, 1933.

Since an endeavor is being made to extend minimum wage legislation for women to other States, a history of the New York law during the year following its enactment may be of interest to workers for Equal Rights in these States.

Over the protests of many groups of industrial women and of every important organization of business women in the State, a minimum wage bill for women and minors was passed by the New York Legislature and signed by the Governor on April 29, 1933. "Some one," said the Governor, "must make the start in the endeavor for concerted action and I covet for our State this leadership. I believe other States will follow our lead."

THIS mandatory law provided that before a wage rate may be set for any industry, a survey of working conditions therein must be made to establish the existence of oppressive wages; a report of the findings must be submitted to a wage board representing employers, workers and the public. The wage board must recommend actual minimum rates to the Industrial Commissioner, who can accept or reject them only after public hearings. The wage order must remain advisory for nine months after the rates are decreed by him. This "model bill" providing investigation of any industry where a substantial number of women and minors were receiving less than a subsistence wage, to determine whether the wages so paid were fairly and reasonably consistent with the service or class of service rendered, was supposed to meet the objection voiced in Adkins vs. Children's Hospital, that the old laws were confiscatory to the extent that a minimum wage might be fixed at a rate exceeding the fair value of the service.

The act as passed contained no appropriation. According to the Director of the Division of Women in Industry and Minimum Wage of the State Labor Department, "the Division of Women in Industry was designated to administer the law, with *four investigators to undertake the industry surveys and four inspectors to cover the whole State.*" (Italics mine).

The agitation on behalf of the bill centered on the "starvation wages" then being paid in canneries, garment trades and factories. "The important thing," said the Governor, *"is to get something done promptly* to improve the conditions of the working women and children of this State and to help industry." (Italics mine.)

Subsequently, NRA codes were created, which provided the same hours regulation for men and women and a minimum wage for all workers, although almost every code contained a lower rate of pay for women.

IT was not until October 2, 1933, some five months after the passage of the minimum wage law for women, that the first remedial action was taken by the Wage Board. At that time, Directory Order No. 1, governing women and minors in laundry occupations, went into effect. It provided for a wage of 31 cents per hour or $12.40 a week as a basic rate for a full work week of 40 hours in the New York City area, and 27½ cents per hour, or $11.00 for a full work week of 40 hours, outside of the New York City area, with provision for overtime pay.

This Order affecting laundries has been in operation seven months. Orders have not been issued for any other industry.

The New York *World-Telegram* was almost hysterical in its propaganda in favor of a minimum wage law for women, which they said would destroy sweat-shops and create a living wage. It was urged by the Woman's Party to cease its support of a bill which would discriminate against women. The editor admitted that mini-

mum wage legislation, if necessary, should apply to all workers and not to women alone, "but," said he, "we'll take one hurdle at a time. When we get it for women, then we'll get it for men." Their second hurdle has not been taken! Less than three and one-half months later, on January 12, 1934, the *World-Telegram* said editorially: "Despite NRA, the sweatshop is still with us. The average of women's wages outside New York City in November was $12.35, demonstrating that many women are still earning well below the NRA minimum. Figures for individual industries are more startling. Average earnings for women in New York City run as low a $9.93 in canning and preserving, and, in the rest of the State, as low as $4.29 a week. The last is the average in the manufacture of women's underwear. That $4.29 is an *average.* The New Deal seems a long way off when one tries to imagine what the lowest wages in that industry must be." What about the law?

ON the same day the New York *Evening Post* reported a strike of women laundry workers in Brooklyn. "Their common grievance," it said, "was that employers were paying 15 cents an hour, and in some cases as little as 13 cents, for work which should be paid for at the rate of 31 cents an hour, according to the new State minimum wage law. Many of them have been receiving from $6 to $9 for a week of from 45 to 52 working hours. Some of them have dependents and all need the money desperately or they would not have taken the jobs. The laundries are being called upon to explain their failure to comply with the law. There are 110 violator laundries in Manhattan, about the same number in Brooklyn and about as many in the rest of the city, it is reported by the Director of the Division of Women in Industry. She estimates that 2,000 women in this city are getting less than the legal minimum wage. . . ."

Some women who had worked for the minimum wage law joined the strikers, one carrying a placard reading: "We Can't Live on $5 to $8 a Week—Could You? We Are Striking for a Living Wage. Laundry Workers' International Union."

On February 11, for the first time in the history of labor conflicts in New York City, settlement of a strike was brought about as a result of pressure exerted by the city through tax machinery. Although passage of a minimum wage law for women had been urged upon the Legislature because it was claimed that women could not be organized and did not want to take part in strikes, 500 employes in two Brooklyn laundries had been on strike for seven weeks in an effort to enforce payment of the State minimum wage of 31 cents an hour. The head of the Regional Labor Board, who had actively campaigned for the minimum wage law as a panacea for the wage ills of women workers, had sought in vain to prevail upon the laundries to comply with the wage law. An appeal to the Mayor to intervene resulted in his order to cut off the water supply of the two laundries "for non-payment of back taxes." Although the Mayor did not say his action was prompted by the labor policy of the laundries, he admitted this was a factor. One of the strikers said, "Without the active participation of the Mayor, the strike might have been prolonged indefinitely."

A *WORLD-TELEGRAM* editorial of February 13 said: "It took the Mayor's intervention to bring about enforcement of the minimum wage law. . . . Joseph Lehrer, Secretary of one of the two laundries affected by the strike, declares that only eight of the 200 laundries in Brooklyn are paying the minimum rate. Since he is Chairman of the Whole Laundry Association of Brooklyn, he ought to know. . . ."

Two weeks later it was charged that the laundries that were forced to increase their wages to women workers had taken the increase out of the men's pay envelope by cuts of $3.00 weekly.

The State Industrial Commissioner prepared to "crack down" on 149 Brooklyn laundries, which, he said, were paying 3,505 women and minors less than the minimum wage.

On March 8, "the stinging lash of public opinion was invoked by the State Labor Department to enforce the Minimum Fair Wage Law for women laundry workers." One hundred and forty-nine Brooklyn laundry owners were summoned to appear at a private hearing to show cause why they should not suffer unfavorable publicity.

A mass meeting was held in Brooklyn on March 14, and Brooklyn consumers were urged to boycott 40 laundries which were not paying the State minimum wage. The same day a list of 40 non-complying laundries was published by the State Industrial Commissioner and broadcast from the Municipal Radio Station.

THE head of the Regional Labor Board emphasized that the Board "relies heavily on the force of public opinion in securing justice for the workers. . . In making public this list, the Department of Labor draws attention to the fact that this is the first time in the history of the State that public opinion has been invoked as the sole weapon of enforcement. The penalties will be available July 2, when the nine months' directory period expires."

There are *four* investigators to undertake the industry survey for the Labor Department and only *four* inspectors to cover the whole State which, outside of New York City, with its several million inhabitants, contains some 59 large and small cities, to say nothing of towns. Only *one* industry, laundries, has been investigated during the year since the passage of the act, and the only way in which the law could be enforced in the *one* city (Brooklyn) was through a strike lasting seven weeks, turning off the water by order of the Mayor, and relying "heavily on the force of public opinion."

New York has a minimum wage law, but women workers are not receiving a living wage. The sweat-shops are still here. The law which was supposed "to get something done promptly" has had no appreciable effect on the wages of the working women of the State. Its existence on the statute books is and will be a menace to women. Nevertheless, taking advantage of the psychology of the time, and in an endeavor to push minimum wage legislation for women in other States, the National Consumers' League, in a letter to members dated March 31, 1934, unblushingly writes: "We must make hay while the sun shines and pass our minimum wage bill in more and more States while sweat-shops are temporarily gone." The letter goes on to say that, if a working girl is lucky enough to live in one of the six States which passed their standard minimum wage bill last year (New York being one of them), she will not have to worry about her future, no matter what happens to the NRA and that there is no reason why every State cannot have a minimum wage law which will prevent unfair competition.

IN a dinner address on April 9 which was carried over the radio, Miss Rose Schneiderman, President of the Women's Trade Union League, said, "We sponsored the minimum wage law for women and minors, but none of the gains made by women through the NRA or minimum wage law will be kept until they organize in a stable union for all time."

The NRA wage schedules, to be sure, discriminate against women, but the codes have at least established the principle of hours and wage regulation for all workers, regardless of sex. Therefore, the continued clamor of the National Consumers' League for the extension of minimum wage legislation applying to women only is amazing.

THE Woman's Party always has questioned the statistics offered by the advocates of special labor laws for women, which try to prove their great benefit to the woman worker. No reliable data have been produced, for the reason that in no State having laws to regulate the hours and wages of women have these laws been generally enforced. Whenever they have been enforced, plenty of evidence has been offered to prove their ill effect upon women workers.

"Woman Earner's Right to Marriage"

THIS is the title of an interview with Alice Park of Palo Alto, California, a frequent contributor to EQUAL RIGHTS, which appeared in the *Australian Women's Weekly* of Sydney, Australia. It was written by Jean Williamson, editor of the *Weekly*.

Mrs. Park's visit to Sydney was an incident of an extensive Eastern tour, including Hawaii and Japan. In Honolulu she met Estelle Baker, another contributor and subscriber to EQUAL RIGHTS. She reports that the entire passenger list of the ship on which she made the trip "was printed in almost every port where we went, generally in advance of our arrival, my name listed as 'member National Woman's Party' generally. In at least one paper I was listed as 'Feminist'."

The interview, as it appeared in the *Australian Women's Weekly*, reads as follows:

"'The economic independence of women' has become a hackneyed phrase in every English-speaking country. It is the Feminist slogan of modern times, just as 'Votes for Women' was a few years ago.

"The most important aspect of this economic independence today concerns the woman earner's right to marriage, and not entirely the right of the married woman to work. It is the same thing—but with a difference.

"Mrs. Alice Park, of Palo Alto, California, who has been interested in numerous Feminist movements in the United States, was one of the passengers on board the American ship, 'Lurline,' and she said that the dismissal of married women from employment was the burning Feminist question in America today.

"Thousands of married women had lost their positions, both in the professional and industrial field, and Feminists everywhere were up in arms at what they deemed to be interference with the rights of their sex.

"Mrs. Park, as a true Feminist, claims the right of every woman to decide whether she shall or shall not work for recompense.

"All should be free to make the choice.

"Home and family ties were paramount, but no legal or conventional obstacle should impede the path of the woman who wished to become a wage-earner.

"The crusade to remove woman from the wage-earning field was world-wide, said Mrs. Park. She noted that when the first wholesale dismissals of married women took place in Hungary, 700 divorce papers had been signed within the first week, and the same thing had happened in America, and was happening. Women sought dissolution of marriage, in many cases, if it were the thing that prevented them from earning for themselves, and girls considered the marriage tie very deeply, and its effect on the possibility of their ever turning their ability into lucrative channels.

"Mrs. Park was a prominent suffragette, but suffrage for women, she says, is only the door that leads to opportunity. Women are too apt to think that when they got suffrage on equal terms with men everything else was equal. There were still numerous disabilities under which women labored, and the laws being different in each of the States, uniformity was being aimed at.

"The National Woman's Party was working for the Equal Rights Amendment, to be embodied in the Constitution of the United States, and if this were achieved there would be greater equality between the sexes. The primary object of the Party was to secure for women complete equality with men under the law, and in all human relationships, and, although the achievement of this ideal seemed a long way off, it was none the less desirable.

"Mrs. Park is an old friend of Miss Alice Henry, who returned to Australia, recently, after spending many years in America.

"She tells the story of a smart piece of work achieved by Alice Henry in 1912, eight years before complete franchise for women had been achieved in the States.

"The Federation of Women's Clubs was holding a congress, but it was opposed to having the woman suffrage question included in its agenda, as political questions were then not part of its policy. One evening, when the hall was thronged, Alice Henry awaited a suitable opportunity, and, addressing the president of the conference, moved that a resolution be passed in honor of Susan B. Anthony.

"The president became slightly embarrassed, for Susan B. Anthony and suffrage meant one and the same thing, but as no objection could be taken to the resolution in that form it was carried, amid the enthusiasm of the gathering."

The Road to Equality

THAT originally there was a conception of "equal, thought different sexes" and that it has been long lost, and is now being gradually restored, is the contention of Helen A. Archdale of England, Chairman of the Equal Rights International in an article entitled "Man and Woman: The Road to Equality," which appeared recently in *The Christian Science Monitor*.

Mrs. Archdale writes in part:

"A century ago, it was possible to describe with truth the position of women thus:

> 'Men's theories about what they wanted from women have varied. . . . Never, down to a time that is almost our own, have any large numbers of them thought of her as a creature whose place in the universe was as independent and as important as their own.'

"This statement appears in I. B. O'Malley's 'Women in Subjection: A Study of the Lives of English Women Before 1832,' published last year.

"How far can woman herself share this blame? Did she not take and use the path of sacrifice until it became under her feet the path of selfishness? Did she not forsake spiritual meekness, which is the acme of strength, for a material dependence, which is the depth of degradation?

"Losing sight of spiritual values, woman weighed her virtues in the material scales of marriage and motherhood. Not true motherhood, but motherhood desired for the pleasure of possessing and with all the sentimentality which attaches to the word lulling her to be satisfied that the physical act of childbearing was motherhood in its entirety.

"Yet, in spite of mistakes and misunderstandings, all the time the thought of the equality of the sexes lived, as it must live, being immortal.

"In none whatever among the many conceptions of creation or of its own beginnings which the inquiring human mind has put forth does the idea of a superior sex or an inferior sex appear. The conception of sex superiority and sex inferiority appears much later in our world time history and is even now on the way to disappear again.

"In 1932, the Thirteenth Assembly of the League of Nations had before it a report from the Secretary General in which we summarized the opinions of women's organizations, given in reply to a request from the Council of the League for advice as to how best to increase the collaboration of women in the work of the League. The report reads in part as follows:

> 'They (the women's organizations) are of opinion that equality of status is a prerequisite to effective collaboration of women in the work of the League of Nations.'

"The international unity now obtaining

among women is well exemplified here. The different organizations have widely different 'objects' yet all, with one voice, express that fundamental truth: 'Equality of status is a prerequisite to effective collaboration.'

"The essence of true collaboration is, surely, that all give of their best, all give to their utmost. To list all the restrictions which still prevent effective collaboration of the two sexes would require much space but it may be briefly stated that in 1934 they are showing themselves particularly in the refusal of paid employment to married women; in the industrial field there is a mass of special legislation and regulations for women, largely restrictive; in the professional field there are still many closed doors.

"The above are only a few of the restrictions imposed by law and by regulation; of the unwritten and customary, such, for instance, as the refusal of British compositors to admit women to the composing room, there are legion. The latest form of the unwritten but effective restriction may be seen in the developing corporative states where a section is named 'the women's section.' There is no corresponding 'men's section,' all others being named from the occupation of its members. This naming will certainly tend to the segregation of women in the section called 'women's, and to their exclusion or grudging and difficult entry into other sections. 'Effective collaboration' will thus be rendered the more impossible.

"Although there is a more general acceptance, although 14 nations have, within the last 14 years, written in their Constitutions that men and women are equal before the law, yet it is not possible to say with perfect truth that women in any nation do not find themselves treated differently from their male fellow citizens; they may still find inequality of status or, more often, opportunity; they may come up against restrictions; nevertheless, the principle, the essential principle of the equality of the sexes, is accepted.

"It is a significant fact that the new and reorganized nations are among those which have relinquished the old conception of superior, indicating male, and inferior, indicating female. They have returned to an allegiance to the fundamental principle of equality. Among these are Czechoslovakia, Spain, Poland, Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Danzig, Irish Free State, Russia and China."

"To compare this newer conception with the position in some other countries which have not undergone transformation but retain old established conceptions: in France, women, while enjoying considerable opportunities in many fields, are still subject to the remains of the Napoleonic Code and are still not citizens of France; in the United States, there remain traces of the same Napoleonic Code in some states and inequality still lingers in federal law; in Great Britain, as has been shown earlier, woman is still only about three-quarters of the way to equality before the law and in fact; in Italy, the position of women is far behind, even some branches of education being still denied to them.

"Half a century ago, in what Christian Scientists accept as the textbook of their Science, that modern revelator, Mary Baker Eddy, expressed her preference for the First Commandment and declared, in 'Science and Health,' p. 340: 'One infinite God, good, . . . equalizes the sexes. . . .'

"One does not claim that the insertion of abstract rights in written constitutions is that equalization of the sexes which Mrs. Eddy saw, but it is a big and stable addition to the foundation. It is a sign that humanity is desiring that 'completeness' of masculine and feminine which is 'true harmony'; is turning from the many gods to the one God that shall 'equalize the sexes'."

Maedchen in City Room

By Gretta Palmer, Editor of Woman's Page, New York World-Telegram, from The Guild Reporter, official organ of the American Newspaper Guild

ABOUT once a month a nervous little girl in a mussed-looking hat appears at my desk and says, "I am a student of journalism. Will you please give me your views on the outlook for women in the field for our school paper?" You have had them, too. And you know the answer.

One of New York's great newspapers today employs no women on its city staff. Another has a female battery of one. A third, which prides itself on its liberality, has two working for the desk, one in the financial department, and had more until marriage and other events fortunately decimated their ranks. There is a woman Sunday magazine editor in New York, a woman literary critic, a woman editor-in-chief and there are plenty of woman women's page writers and society chatterers. But of girl reporters under the aegis of the city editor, there are still precious few.

Your little girl from Hunter College or Columbia wants to be one of them a year from now—of course she does, and nothing that you can say will deflate her hopes. She thinks—quite rightly, by the way—that the reporter on general assignments meets such interesting people. She thinks it must be wonderful to have a scrapbook full of signed articles. She loves the Glamour of the Game. (The caps are Hunter's and Columbia's.)

The chances are about ten thousand to one that she will ever land a job as a New York reporter, and a hundred thousand to one that she will do it without previous reportorial experience out of town, unless her father owns the paper and she inherits it first. And if she ever does, the magnificence of her lot is still, I believe, questionable.

For sex equality does not prevail in the city room—and don't let any editor contradict me, either. It is true that a year or so ago one of the big morning papers had a first string girl reporter, who wrote the lead running stories for weeks at time. It is true that the average feature writer, female, draws down as good a salary as the man working at the adjacent desk. But he may be going somewhere. She, if she stays in the newspaper business, almost never is.

Before the alert young man reporter there are two definite courses open. He may become a junior executive (did you ever hear of a girl assistant city editor?) and in time work up to be the managing editor, editor and, eventually, the Big Shot. Or he may cleave to his typewriter and bang out a notable career for himself as a Washington correspondent, a dramatic critic or a columnist big enough to differ from the editorial page of the paper for which he works. The most brilliant women writers, somehow, never do these things.

There should be no sex discrimination among writers, Heaven knows. There is nothing about a typewriter which can offend the sensibilities of the gentliest-nurtured girl nor is the physical effort involved great enough to tax her strength. But women, according to the curious tradition of editors, are interested in nothing but other women. (The fact that they scatter like dynamite when other women come into the room does not disabuse editors of this mossy notion.)

A man reporter may be assigned to tackle a prospect of either sex. A girl who is given a man to interview may bank on it that there will be imbedded in the assignment the suggestion that she get him to unload his views of childbirth or the modern girl or "Do Men Wish Their Wives to Work?" The thing is inevitable. As a recent and more harsh critic of the capitalist press expressed it, they are asked to write "Fluff-stuff."

Now, I am no opponent of fluff-stuff—I think it's fine. But it so happens that the juciest assignments on a newspaper concern other subjects—subjects which I believe women are quite as capable of

treating as men. And it is my profound conviction that there are few subjects as dull to a woman reporter as another woman.

We modern women are surprisingly well-rounded persons, taken all in all. We have a certain elementary grasp of politics and of psychiatry and of economics—what the economists have left of it. We might make excellent political experts or sound market advisers, notable dramatic critics or brilliant writers of those diatribes known as editorials. But do we ever get a chance? No!!

Some day some editor is really going to listen when his publisher tells him the familiar story about women buying 85 per cent of the merchandise sold in America. Some day he is going to tumble to the fact that his advertisements are directed to one sex while his reading matter, in large part, is slanted to the other. He is then going to hire a gang of competent women to give the woman's touch to his stories on City Hall and Senate investigations and the Nazi movement and all the subjects which have been verboten to the girl reporter.

And that publisher is going to make a fortune.

Until then the little girls from Hunter and Columbia had better get a job at Macy's—they might grow up some day to be fifth vice-presidents at a salary that would make a New York city editor cry into his slug of rye.

Press Comment

Sues Wife For Support

New York World-Telegram, April 14, 1934.

LOS ANGELES, April 14 (A.P.) Howard Neale today sued his wife, Mrs. Caroline V. Neale, for $3,500.

He charged she induced him to give up his employment and marry her, agreeing to support him and his minor daughter by a former marriage.

Canton Women Are Militant

Shanghai Sunday Times, March 18, 1934.

CANTON, March 14. — Twenty thousand women, who gathered here for the observance of Women's Day, adopted a series of resolutions, demanding among other things the lifting of the Chinese woman's position to complete freedom and equality with men, the abolition of Mui-tsai (girl slaves) and the outlawing of concubinage. The resolutions included:

1. That the Government be requested further to aid the "Buy Chinese" movement and to adopt regulations making the use of native goods compulsory;
2. That the Government be asked to outlaw concubinage;
3. That the educational institutions be asked to organize thrift societies to combat extravagance;
4. That the Government be asked completely to suppress the Mui-tsai system;
5. That steps be taken to aid the education of adult women;
6. That additional child nurseries be opened;
7. That the Government be requested to adopt legislative action requiring the employment of women in all large commercial establishments;
8. That the Government be requested to instruct all district organizations to establish schools for the education of women;
9. That the district Government be urged strictly to suppress prostitution;
10. That the Government be asked to improve the treatment of women workers and their conditions in the factories;
11. That the Government be requested to recognize the equality of women.—*Reuter.*

Big Stride Forward

The Catholic Citizen, London, England, February 15, 1934.

WE heartily congratulate our American colleagues on their victory at the Pan American Congress at Montevideo. What that victory has been is very clearly expressed in EQUAL RIGHTS in an article by James Brown Scott, President of the American Institute of International Law, and of the American Society of International Law, and former President of the *Institut du Droit International.* He says: "What was the victory?"

What was the victory? The adoption by the Conference of the Nationality Treaty without a negative vote on the part of any Republic; the adoption by four American Republics: Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador and Cuba, of the Equality Treaty in civil and political relationships of men and women; the adoption, without a negative, of the recommendation to the American Republics to consider how inequalities in the civil and political relationships of men and women could be abrogated, and equality in all human relationships between men and women become their law and practice; and the continuance of the Inter American Commission in order that it should carry on its investigations on the relationships between men and women, and serve as an advisory body to the Americas.

Thus, through the work of the Inter American Commission of Women, the fight for equality has taken a big stride forward.

Chinese Widows No Longer Forced To Remarry

New York Times, March 7, 1934.

NANKING, March 6. — Another step in the emancipation of Chinese women has been recorded by an order issued by the Kiangning Hsien, or District Government. Under this order a widow has complete freedom of choice whether she shall remarry or remain single.

Under the old custom a widow could remarry only under direct orders of the family of her late husband.

"Too Many Cooks"

Opportunity, London, England, March, 1934.

THE Nazi policy of restricting women's activities entirely to domestic affairs is apparently proving more difficult than was expected. A couple of months ago we noticed a report that the women themselves were beginning to protest against this policy. Now we read a further report that Dr. Goebbels, the Nazi Minister of Propaganda, has explained to an audience of women that he does not wish to see their sex displaced from professions and business and forced back into the kitchen. Perhaps he has discovered that to concentrate all the women of a family into the family kitchen leads to the proverbial spoiling of the broth, or it may have occurred to him that even undisputed sway over a kitchen is small comfort to a woman who, through the denial of her right to earn, has been deprived of the means of buying anything to cook. This recognition of realities is notable and welcome, but it does not mean that the Minister of Propaganda has become a convert to the doctrine of sex equality. In the same speech he is reported to have said that politics and all public questions are for men only, although he would allow to a wife the right to control the education of her children "during the years when the foundations of character are laid." We find it difficult to understand this hard-and-fast distinction between private and public responsibility; why a person who can successfully undertake the one should be deemed entirely unfit to be entrusted with the other. We can only hope that the women of Germany, if they are indeed allowed a controlling voice in the education of their children, will use this power to produce a more liberal and enlightened spirit among the rising generation.

News from the Field

Dr. Richardson Addresses Baltimore Branch

DR. LULA McDOWELL RICHARDSON of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University and a recent collaborator with the Inter American Commission of Women in preparing its report for the Montevideo Conference, and Edith Houghton Hooker, Chairman of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party, addressed the Baltimore City Branch of the Party at its annual meeting Wednesday. The meeting was held at the Woman's City Club in Baltimore. Emma Maddox Funck, President of the Baltimore City Branch, presided.

Renew Fight on Section 213

THE regular monthly business meeting of the Government Workers' Council on Thursday evening, April 19, was a particularly happy occasion because of the opportunity it gave the members to welcome Maud Younger back after her long absence in California. Miss Younger brought greetings from the California workers and assurances to the Council of her readiness to help in every possible way in the continued fight for the repeal of Section 213 of the Economy Act. She pointed out that there will be a wonderful opportunity presented in the coming political campaign to find out how every candidate stands on the question of discriminations against married women. She also urged Council members to take an active interest in the work for passage of the Equal Nationality Bill and other objectives of the National Woman's Party, since every one thing that is accomplished gives increased power and impetus to the other lines of endeavor on behalf of women.

Another very interesting feature of the program was an address by Burnita Shelton Matthews on the legal status of women in the District of Columbia. Mrs. Matthews said, "The laws of the District of Columbia, like the laws of almost everywhere, regard marriage, at least on the part of women, as an indication of incompetency or incapacity." For example, a woman, if unmarried, is, under the District law, capable of making a will at the age of eighteen, but if married she can not make a will until she is twenty-one. In the District, men are always preferred to women by the courts in appointing administrators for estates, and an unmarried woman is preferred to a married woman. A married woman's services in her home are legally the property of her husband, and she is not entitled to any part of the family income besides her necessary support. If she is injured, her husband may collect damages for the loss of her services, but if the husband is injured, the wife can collect nothing for loss of support. If a minor child has an estate, the father is preferred over the mother as guardian of this estate. The father has the right to the services and earnings of a minor child and to sue for damages for their loss when the loss is occasioned by the negligent or wrongful act of another. If a child is killed under such circumstances as to authorize the recovery of damages, the father is entitled to all the damages. The mother can not recover damages in such a case.

The meeting adjourned after brief informal discussion and reports on membership and other activities of the past month.

Entertains Foreign Feminists

THE District of Columbia Branch of the National Woman's Party entertained, Thursday evening, April 12, at Alva Belmont House, in honor of Carmita Landestoy of the Dominican Republic, and Nina Strandberg, prominent Feminist, of Helsinki, Finland.

Nina Strandberg has long been a leader of the Finnish Auxiliary of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and Business and Professional Women's Club of Finland. Since Finland was the second country to grant suffrage to women, Miss Strandberg is thoroughly informed on the subject of women's rights. She has given talks on Finland in twenty-one cities of the United States.

Carmita Landestoy, Feminist leader, of Bani, Dominican Republic, is now in Washington, a guest of the Inter American Commission of Women, and is volunteering her assistance at the Commission's headquarters in the Pan American Union in the preparatory work on ratification by the American Republics of the Equal Nationality Convention adopted in Montevideo. At present, she is visiting all the South and Central American Embassies and Legations and verifying the Commission's study of the respective ratification procedures in the American Republics.

Lucia Hanna Hadley, Vice-Chairman of the District Branch of the Party, was hostess at the dinner. Those present, in addition to the honor guests, were: Alice Paul, Doris Stevens, Rebekah S. Greathouse, Laura Berrien, Helen Smith, Mrs. Karl Greene, Maud Younger, Myrtle Patterson, Iris Calderhead Walker, Fanny Bunand-Sevastos and Mrs. H. G. Jordan.

Representation for Housekeepers Demanded

ACCORDING to a recently published order of the Austrian Government, female employees of the State must renounce their posts in case of marriage. By the same order a dismissal of all these employees, whose husbands also are working in the service of the State, was declared, but exceptions were made for women with three children and more, so that bigger families are not touched by the dismissal of the mother and wife. The National Council of Austrian Women protested against this order immediately, and the Government declared that the order would be valid only for a time of transition. Women know that this order was made only to calm men who have been fighting against "double earning" for some years.

The National Council of Austrian Women has presented to the Government some petitions in the interest of keeping up women's rights in the new Constitution, which will be published in the near future. As this Constitution will be built upon professional ideas, the National Council of Austrian Women demands the establishing of Chambers of Housekeeping in order to organize housewives on a professional basis and to procure for them the possibility of representation in the Chambers of Professions, which will replace Parliament. The idea of establishing Chambers of Housekeeping was first of all propagated in Austria by the Vice-President of the National Council of Austrian Women, Gisela Urban, who also has worked out a Constitution for these Chambers. The propaganda for the establishing of the Chambers of Housekeeping has been carried on by the Council for more than ten years.

LITERATURE

A new leaflet, "The Case for Women Jurors," is now ready and may be ordered for 25 cents a copy from the Literature Chairman, National Woman's Party, Washington. Quantities may be obtained at reduced rates, 25 copies for $3, 50 copies for $5. The leaflet is based on answers to a questionnaire sent to judges and lawyers in States where women serve on juries.

ROOMS FOR VISITORS IN WASHINGTON

Headquarters of the National Woman's Party announces that several spacious, sunny rooms in Alva Belmont House at 144 B Street N. E., just a block from the Capitol, are available for the use of members of the National Woman's Party temporarily in Washington.

Rooms, $2.00

DAY PRINTING COMPANY
PUBLICATIONS AND BOOKS
600 East Lombard Street
Baltimore, Md.